

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement/Election of Species requesting that Applicant elect a single invention and a single distinct species for prosecution on the merits, the Applicant respectfully elects:

Groups I – Claims 1-14 and 20-26, drawn to a discharge control unit; and

Species A – Figures 1-8, on which at least claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 are readable.

This election is made with traverse. In particular, the Species A through Species J have a common electrode portion 7 (7b, 7c, 7d, 7e) and a plurality of discharge portions 9, such that they are linked so as to form a single general inventive concept.

Applicant has rewritten non-elected method claims 15-19 in independent form and respectfully requests that they be rejoined upon allowance of a corresponding product claim.

A favorable action on the merits is requested.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

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